

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DACCA 00335 01 OF 02 201214Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05
OMB-01 CU-02 /039 W
-----201231Z 113463 /22
R 200921Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3294
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 0335

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, PROP, BG, US
SUBJ: NEED FOR INCREASED USIS RESOURCES IN BANGLADESH

REF\$ DACCA 0246 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN REFTEL I REFERRED BRIEFLY TO BE BELIEF
THAT USIS PROGRAMMING AND STAFFING SHOULD BE INCREASED.
THIS MESSAGE SPELLS OUT THESE PROPOSALS IN DETAIL.
END SUMMARY.

2. AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 USIA INSPECTION, SEVERE
CUTBACKS WERE MADE IN USIS BANGLADESH BUDGET AND PER-
SONNEL. A STAFF OF FIVE AMERICANS AND 48 FSL'S WAS
CUT BY THE END OF 1975 TO TWO AMERICANS AND 24 FSL'S.
THE USIS LOCAL OPERATING BUDGET (GOE) WAS CUT FROM
\$329,659 IN FY-75 TO \$215,531 IN FY-76 AND \$200,723 IN
FY-77.

3. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE 1974 INSECTION COINCIDED
WITH A LOW POINT IN US-BANGLADESH RELATIONS AND IN
BANGLADESHI POLITICAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE AMERICAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DACCA 00335 01 OF 02 201214Z

IMAGE, DAMAGED BY OUR "TILT" TOWARD PAKISTAN IN 1971,
DETERIORATED THROUGHOUT 1972 AND 1973 PARTLY AS A REACTION
TO DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM, AND WITH ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT
FROM THE LARGE SOVIET PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH. ATTACKS ON
THE USIS CENTERS IN CITTAGONG, MYMENSINGH, RAJSHAHI AND
DACCA IN 1972 AND 1973 LED TO THE CLOSING OF THE LATTER THREE.
(A USIS LIBRARY HAS SINCE BEEN OPENED IN DACCA BUT IT IS

CRAMPED, POORLY LOCATED, AND LACKS AN AUDITORIUM.) BY THE SUMMER OF 1974 ANTI-AMERICANISM WAS WIDESPREAD, RELATIONS WITH THE BDG, UNIVERSITIES AND PRESS WERE DIFFICULT, AND USIS PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES RESTRICTED. MOREOVER, THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE AND THE ECONOMY WAS STAGGERING FROM A SERIES OF SETBACKS. AGAINST THIS DREARY BACKGROUND ONE COULD NOT HELP BUT QUESTION A LARGE COMMITMENT OF USIS RESOURCES TO THIS COUNTRY.

4. THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S FORTUNES SINCE LATE 1975. THE MILITARY REGIME HAS STARTED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH MANY OF THE NATION'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS. MANY OF THE BASICALLY PRO-WESTERN ELEMENTS OF THE PRE-971 ERA -- INCLUDING A GOOD NUMBER TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES -- HAVE RETURNED TO POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, THE MEDIA AND THE ECONOMY. RELATIONS WITH THE US HAVE IMPROVED AND BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION HAS BECOME MORE EVEN-HANDED. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE AND WELL-TARGETED USIS CULTURAL AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS HAVE OPENED ON ALL SIDES AND FAR EXCEED OUR CAPABILITIES OF MEETING THEM.

5. PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES, WHILE WELCOME, ARE THE LEAST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE EQUATION. EVEN IF THE OPPORTUNITIES WERE MUCH FEWER THAN THEY ARE, I WOULD FEEL THAT USIS DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MISSION OBJECTIVES TO THE EXTENT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DACCA 00335 01 OF 02 201214Z

WHILE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN BANGLADESH ARE LIMITED. THEY ARE NOT SO FEW AS TO JUSTIFY THE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WHICH OCCURRED IN USIS OPERATIONS. THE POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ATTITUDES OF BANGLADESH MUST BE A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN TO US, IF ONLY BECAUSE A BANGLADESH IN TURMOIL OR ONE ACTIVELY HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES IS LIKELY TO EXERT A MAJOR DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE ON THE ENTIRE SUB-CONTINENT. WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE INTERESTS IN BANGLADESH, AND WE MAINTAIN HERE ONE OF OUR LARGEST AID PROGRAMS. NOR SHOULD WE IGNORE THE LEGACY IN UNIVERSITY, INTELLECTUAL AND MEDIA CIRCLES OF THE PRO-SOVIET MUJIB REGIME AND THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE STILL LARGE EASTERN EUROPEAN AND ASIAN COMMUNIST MISSIONS. THE SOVIETS ALONE GAVE OUT MORE THAN 200 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY IN THE USSR LAST YEAR; THE SOVIET EMBASSY MAINTAINS A LARGE INFORMATION STAFF WHICH AS EXTENSIVE PRESS CONTACTS AND AN ACTIVE MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.

6. TO ESTABLISH A BETTER BALANCE IN THE SITUATION, I WOULD RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING CHANGES, NONE OF WHICH SHOULD BE UNDULY EXPENSIVE. TAKEN TOGETHER THEY WOULD UNSTOP SOME BOTTLENECKS, ALLOW FOR A MORE EFFICIENT OVERALL UTILIZATION OF USIS RESOURCES AND PAY WORTHWHILE DIVIDENDS IN PROGRAMMING EFFECTIVENESS.

A. THE FIRST NEED IS TO GIVE USIS MORE PROGRAM MATERIAL TO WORK WITH. IN 1975 THE POST WAS DOWNGRADED FROM RE-SOURCE ALLOCATION GROUP (RAG) SIX TO RAG EIGHT. THIS IS ONLY TWO RUNGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE LADDER. THE POST SHOULD BE ADVANCED AT LEAST TO RAG SEVEN, WHICH WOULD BRING A MODEST BUT WELCOME INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SPEAKERS AND OTHER PROGRAM ELEMENTS AVAILABLE. AT PRESENT USIS CAN HOPE FOR LITTLE MORE THAN ONE OR OCCASIONALLY TWO SPEAKERS PER MONTH, AND THEN ONLY BY DIRT OF ACTIVE SCRAMING FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THE RECENT DECISION LIMITING PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 DACCA 00335 01 OF 02 201214Z

GRAM DAYS FOR VOLSPEAKERS WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING THE POSSIBILITIES OF BORROWING SPEAKERS FROM THE ACTIVE USIS PROGRAMS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. FAILING AN INCREASE IN RAG RATING, USIS BANGLADESH MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH EVEN A ONE-A-MONTH SPEAKER AVERAGE IN 1977.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DACCA 00335 02 OF 02 201218Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05

OMB-01 CU-02 /039 W

-----201230Z 113566 /22

R 200921Z JANN77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 0335

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

B. USIS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED AN EXPERIENCED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, I.E., COMBINATION AMERICAN SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST AT ABOUT THE FSS-7 LEVEL. THIS WOULD SEEM A SENSIBLE INVESTMENT SINCE IT WOULD FREE THE PAO AND CAO FROM A VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE CLERICAL AND ROUTINE PROGRAM TASKS, ALLOWING THEM MORE TIME FOR PERSONAL CONTACTS, REFINEMENT OF ONGOING PROGRAMS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ONES. IN THIS CONTEXT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NEW USIS AUDIENCE RECORD SYSTEM (ARS) WILL REQUIRE MAJOR TIME EXPENDITURE BY THE POST. WHILE THE PAO WILL BE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ARS AND WILL MAINTAIN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OPERATION, A CAPABLE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CAN TAKE OVER MUCH OF THE DAY-TO-DAY ARS WORK.

C. AN ADDITIONAL FOUR FSL SLOTS SHOULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED. THESE WOULD BE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE YET WOULD CONSIDERABLY EXPAND PROGRAMMING CAPABILITIES. USIS IS EMBARKING ON A REORIENTATION OF ITS LIBRARY ACTIVITY TO EMPHASIZE OUT-REACH PROGRAMS AIMED AT ITS TARGET AUDIENCES. TOWARDS THIS END THE POST NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL SLOT FOR THE DACCA LIBRARY AS WELL AS THE ONE IN CHITTAGONG. SINCE EVEN UNDER THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES THE POST WILL BE ABLE TO PRO-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DACCA 00335 02 OF 02 201218Z

GRAM FEW SPEAKERS, VIDEOTAPE RECORDINGS (VTRS) AND FILMS BECOME A MAJOR ACTIVITY. USIS NOW HAS SOME 180 VTRS AND IS EVER ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SUITABLE NEW ACQUISITIONS. TO GET TOP MILAGE FROM THESE AUDIOVISUAL ELEMENTS, AND TO ASSIST WITH OTHER CULTURAL PROGRAMS, THE POST NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL CULTURAL ASSISTANT. FINALLY, A JUNIOR CLERK TYPIST WILL BE NEEDED IF THE CLERICAL BURDEN OF ARS IS TO BE HANDLED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

D. THE POST RECEIVED EIGHT IV GRANTS FOR FY-77. THIS NUMBER SHOULD BE DOUBLED. SINCE THE DEMISE OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM WITH THE 1971 CIVIL WAR, BANGLADESH HAS RECEIVED NEXT TO NOTHING BY WAY OF VISITING AMERICAN PROFESSORS. NOR HAS THE POST BEEN ABLE TO OFFER ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE FOR BANGLADESHI PROFESSORS WHO WISH TO PURSUE POST-DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN THE US. BANGLADESH WILL HAVE ONE AMERICAN SPECIALIST DURING FY-77 BUT SHOULD GET AT LEAST FOUR ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION, THE POST SHOULD HAVE EIGHT TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS EACH YEAR FOR PROFESSORS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS WHO WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER WAYS IN WHICH EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES SHOULD BE AUGMENTED, AND WE MAY SEND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS LATER.

E. RESTORATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICER POSITION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT A FUTURE DATE, DEPENDING ON

DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADESH. I AM NOT PRESSING ON THIS
NOW BUT WANT TO RESERVE THE OPTION OF REOPENING THE
MATTER LATER THIS YEAR IF CONDITIONS INDICATE THIS WOULD
SERVE OUR INTERESTS.
MASTERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA00335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0743
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdjn.tel
Line Count: 229
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62f307d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3550985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEED FOR INCREASED USIS RESOURCES IN BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, PROP, BG, US, USIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62f307d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009